

Data Analysis Framework

Major Focus	Questions	Methodology	Interpretation
How are our students performing by subject area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do our students compare to other students at the state level? How do our students perform in a particular subject across all grade levels within the district? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Quick Looks, click on “DISTRICT & SCHOOLS Scale Scores, Student Growth Percentile, and Proficiency” to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> compare the aggregate numbers for your district to the state numbers compare your district’s growth and performance by grade level for a particular subject <p><i>Note: Focus on the first set of charts that deal with your whole district vs. the state.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are students in some grades performing substantially better or worse than others? Are students performing substantially better or worse in some subjects than in others? Is the state consistently outperforming our district? Is your district consistently outperforming the state? (looking at both scale scores and growth)
What are the trends in student performance over time?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do trends look like by grade level? How do district trends compare with state trends? How do trends compare with other similar districts in the state? Do particular cohorts perform above or below the average? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Quick Looks, click on “DISTRICT & SCHOOLS Scale Scores, Student Growth Percentile, and Proficiency” to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> see if the trends for your district’s grade levels are similar to the trends at the state level. view performance by cohort (e.g. 4th graders 2006, compared to 5th graders 2007 and 6th graders 2008) and discover if there are weak or strong areas. <p><i>Note: First, pull up the same charts you viewed to analyze Focus 1. Then, choose “___ grade Cohort” to examine performance by cohort. You can also pull the same visualizations in “COMPARE TWO DISTRICTS” at the bottom of the QuickLooks homepage.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there particular grade levels or subject areas that are consistently stronger or weaker than others? Is our district’s performance over time similar to other districts? Is our district’s growth and performance over time similar to that which is happening across the state? (Remember, the general pattern has been for students in the state to perform better each year.) Do we have cohorts that are stronger or weaker than others?
How are subgroups performing over time?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How are our subgroups currently performing compared to the state as well as similar districts? What are the trends for our subgroups’ performance over time compared to state trends? How do the trends for our subgroups’ performance compare to other similar districts over time? How are subgroups within the district performing over time? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Quick Looks, click on “DISTRICT & SCHOOLS Scale Scores, Student Growth Percentile, and Proficiency” and scroll down below the first graphs to view subgroups compared to state levels. Note your own averages for subgroups (e.g., ethnicity, economic disadvantage, proficiency) and then begin looking at other districts for comparison. To simultaneously compare other districts to your own and to the state averages, scroll to the bottom of the QuickLooks homepage and select “COMPARE TWO DISTRICTS.” <p><i>Note: If your school/district is comprised of predominately one single subgroup, you should do most of your comparison to this subgroup and not the overall state averages.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is our performance by subgroups better or worse than the state averages for these subgroups? Is performance by subgroups better or worse than other similar districts’ performance for these subgroups? Over time, have we shown progress in closing the achievement gap or does our district simply reflect what is happening at the state level? Are our achievement gaps actually worse than what is seen at the state level? Are there similar districts that are demonstrating success in closing the achievement gap? Are we demonstrating success in closing the achievement gap compared with other similar districts? Are some subgroups performing substantially better or worse than others?

What are our strengths and weaknesses in teaching and learning?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do our students perform by strand? What are the trends in student performance over time? How does our performance by strand compare to similar districts? How does our performance by strand compare to the state? How do our subgroups perform by strand? What are the trends over time? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Quick Looks, click on “DISTRICT Strand Scores” to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> view strand scores in comparison to the state averages. view strand scores in comparison to other districts. view strand score data by subgroup (e.g., ethnicity, economic disadvantage, proficiency) compared to state averages. note problem areas in the current year’s data, and then look at prior years to see if this problem has persisted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there strands that are particularly weak or strong? Are there strands at specific grade levels that are particularly weak or strong? Are there particular grade levels that are consistently stronger or weaker than others? Are there particular subject areas that are consistently stronger or weaker than others? Are there strands that are particularly weak or strong compared to the state averages? Are there other districts that are much stronger in areas where our district is weak? What additional data might be necessary to determine the possible causes for this? Are there persistent areas of strength or weakness in strand scores for subgroups within our district? What additional data might be necessary to determine the possible causes for this? What other data might we need to collect to effectively evaluate strengths and weaknesses in teaching and learning?
Can we evaluate teacher, program, and instructional strategies’ effectiveness?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What changes would we expect to see based on interventions you have initiated? Using longitudinal analysis, can we point to a specific change in program or instructional strategies that have been successful or unsuccessful? Can we determine which teachers seem stronger or weaker in certain areas over time? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you initiated an important intervention for a particular academic year, does the longitudinal analysis provide sufficient evidence as to the efficacy of that change? If you are a small district and can identify a single teacher responsible for a particular grade/subject, are the data you’ve analyzed above sufficient to identify strengths or weaknesses of individual teachers? If you are a larger district with multiple teachers for each grade/subject, would the ability to aggregate results at the teacher level be helpful? <p><i>Note: To answer these questions, use a summative approach, where you analyze the same charts you pulled to analyze the previous 4 foci, looking at them together as a group view a comprehensive picture.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the data are sufficient to identify particular changes that have lead to increased/decreased student achievement, what might we do to determine what additional actions need to take place? If the data are not sufficient to accurately determine the efficacy of program/instructional changes, what additional data might we need to collect to help us determine the value of changes? If we can identify individual teacher effectiveness, what might we do to determine what corrective actions need to be taken for weak teachers? What might we do to identify the practices that make some teachers more effective? If we cannot identify individual teacher performance, what data could our schools and the state provide to assist with this?